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spool¹ [Pronunciation Key](#) (*spool*)

n.

1.
 - a. A cylinder of wood, plastic, cardboard, or other material on which wire, thread, or string is wound.
 - b. The amount of wire, thread, or string wound on such a cylinder.
 - c. Something similar to such a cylinder in shape or function.
2. A reel for magnetic tape.

tr. & intr.v. **spooled, spool·ing, spools**

To wind or be wound on or off a spool.

[Middle English *spole*, from Old North French *espole*, and from Middle Dutch Middle Low German *spoele* (Old North French, from Middle Dutch).]

Source: The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition

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spool² [Pronunciation Key](#) (*spool*)

tr.v. spooled, spool·ing, spools

To store (data sent to a printer) in a buffer, allowing the program that sent the data to the printer to resume its normal operation.

[s(imultaneous) p(eripheral) o(operations) o(n) l(ine).]

Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

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Spool \Spool\, v. t. [imp. & p. p. Spooled; p. pr. & vb. n. Spooling.] To wind on a spool or spools.

Source: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

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